

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out that an operator arm is disposed in the slot surrounding the second wall of the bearing. Currently amended claim 1 is supported by at least Figure 4 and specification paragraph [0022]. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice for failing to further limit independent claim 1. For at least the reasons set forth below, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his time and insight during the Applicant-initiated telephonic examiner interview on March 19, 2007. During the interview, claim 1 was discussed in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,802,913 (Winner) and U.S. Patent No. 2,337,913 (McClearn). It was agreed that if claim 1 were amended to recite that "an operator arm is disposed in the slot surrounding said second wall" it would overcome the rejection of claim 1. As discussed, Applicant is formally submitting an amendment to previously presented claim 1 to overcome the Examiner's rejection in the previous Office Action.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 2 as being of improper dependant form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In view of the Examiner's comments, Applicant has canceled claim 2.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 3-9, as amended, are in full compliance with the requirements and request that the objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable or obvious over Winner in view of McClearn. The Examiner admits that Winner fails to disclose a bore with an outer threaded end or a bearing with an opposite threaded end threaded into the threaded end. The Examiner relies upon McClearn to teach a bore with an outer threaded end and a bearing with an opposite threaded end threaded into the threaded end. The rejection of amended claim 1, and claims 3-9 depending therefrom, is respectfully traversed.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 5, Winner discloses a window operator 10 consisting of a top cover 11, a base 12, an actuating arm 13, and a worm gear 14. The actuating arm 13 is mounted

on the base 12 by means of a pin 22. The pin 22 is receivable in an opening 35 in the actuating arm 13. The actuating arm 13 includes gear teeth 34 which are in meshing relationship with the worm gear 14. Glue or any other suitable adhesive is then applied to all contacting surfaces of the cover 11 and base 12 to enclose the actuating arm 13 inside the window operator 10. An upper end 102 of pin 22 is receivable in a hole 103 in cover 11. The pin 22, when received in hole 103, adds strength to the window operator 10.

Referring to Figs. 1, 3, 4 and 5, McClearn discloses a casement window opener. A base, or housing 23, is mounted on a window sill 1 to enclose a gear segment 30 of an arm 34 which opens and closes a window 2. In operation, when a shaft 32 is rotated by means of a crank 33, a worm gear 31 rotates the gear segment 30 of the arm 34. The arm 34, indirectly connected to the window 2, is then caused to swing. A pivot member 29 is provided in the form of a screw and extends downwardly through the housing 23 and threads into a hub 28. The gear segment 30 is mounted to rotate on the pivot member 29.

Assuming, *arguendo*, that Winner is properly combinable with McClearn, the proposed combination would fail to disclose Applicant's invention as claimed in amended claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*,

a bearing having a smooth end and an opposite end threaded into said threaded end, said smooth end having first and second walls forming first and second shoulders, a diameter of said first wall being smaller than a diameter of said second wall, a slot extending part of the length of said housing, said second wall being located within said slot, and an operator arm disposed in said slot surrounding said second wall.

Winner fails to disclose that an operator arm is disposed in a slot surrounding a second wall having a larger diameter than a first wall. The Examiner defined "A" and "B", as seen on page 5 of the previous Office Action, as the first and second walls, respectively. The second wall "B" does have a larger diameter than the first wall "A". However, the operator arm 13 disclosed by Winner is not disposed in the slot surrounding the larger diameter second wall "B", as claimed in amended claim 1. Conversely, the operator arm 13 disclosed by Winner surrounds the smaller diameter first wall "A". McClearn does not make up this deficiency. McClearn fails to teach that an operator arm is disposed in a slot surrounding a second wall having a larger diameter than a first wall. The operator arm, or gear segment 30 of the arm 34, disclosed by McClearn is not disposed in a slot surrounding a second wall that has a larger diameter than a

first wall, as claimed. Conversely, the operator arm, or gear segment 30 of the arm 34, disclosed by McClearen surrounds a smaller diameter first wall.

Since McClearen does not teach that an operator arm is disposed in a slot surrounding a second wall having a larger diameter than a first wall, it could not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to dispose the operator arm surrounding a larger diameter second wall in Winner. Applicant's invention, as recited in amended claim 1, provides that an operator arm is disposed in the slot surrounding a second wall having a larger diameter than a first wall.

Winner in view of McClearen fails to disclose each and every element of amended claim 1. Claims 3-9 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore patentable over Winner in view of McClearen for the same reasons discussed above. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and claims 3-9 depending therefrom, are not unpatentable over Winner in view of McClearen, and request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application, including claims 1 and 3-9, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

She Shun ZHANG

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(Date)

By:

Martin G. Belisario

MARTIN G. BELISARIO

Registration No. 32,886

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street, Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7013

Telephone: 215-965-1200

Direct Dial: 215-965-1303

Facsimile: 215-965-1210

E-Mail: mbelisario@akingump.com

MGB/MTV

7763613